

Cooking is something that almost every employee does. It is also the number one cause of home fires and home fire injuries in the United States, killing hundreds of Americans, injuring thousands more, and accounting for more than a half billion dollars in property losses each year. But many of these fires could have been easily prevented.

Recent research on cooking fires shows that the leading cause of cooking fires is unattended cooking. The phone rings, someone comes to the door, a child cries, and you simply step away. It only takes an instant for cooking oil to ignite.

We want to keep employees safe at work and at home. For this reason, ORO is joining other organizations across the country and participating in Fire Prevention Week (FPW), October 8-14, 2006. The theme for FPW is Prevent Cooking Fires: Watch What You Heat.

At home, employees need to remember to:

- Stand by their pan when frying
- Keep kids and combustibles away from the cook top
- Keep a lid handy when cooking
- Make sure you have working smoke detectors
- Keep a fire extinguisher in the kitchen

In addition to the safe practices at home, employees should also be aware of fire prevention in the workplace. Each day during FPW, employees will be sent information in the employees news update concerning fire safety on the job. As you read the information ask your self the question:

"Are you cooking something unsafe in your office?"